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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
Import Form

Form Type: EMAIL - Email

Date: 03/29/2019

Title: (U)

Approved By:

Drafted By:

Case ID #:

Synopsis: (U)

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Enclosure(s): Enclosed are the following items:

1. (U) News paper article titled "Joe Negron's GEO Gig: A Fabulously Slimy Quid Pro Quo?"

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[redacted] (IMD) (CON)

From: [redacted] (TD) (FBI)
Sent: Friday, March 29, 2019 11:49 AM
To: [redacted] (JK) (FBI)
Subject: [redacted]

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[redacted]

[redacted]

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<http://www.sunshinestatenews.com/story/joe-negrans-geo-gig-fabulously-slimy-quid-pro-quo>

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Nancy Smith

Joe Negron's GEO Gig: A Fabulously Slimy Quid Pro Quo?

By [NANCY SMITH \(/SOURCE/NANCY-SMITH\)](#)

March 16, 2019 - 9:00am



Joe Negron's escape from the Florida Legislature to a private fortune he negotiated on the taxpayers' dime is out in the open now. Reporter Matt Dixon laid it out nicely for us in Friday's [POLITICO Florida](#)

<https://www.politico.com/states/florida/story/2019/03/15/negron-making-400k-annually-as-general-counsel-for-geo-group-917008>).

Because of redistricting, the former Senate president could have run for another term in the Legislature. The fact he chose not to is no crime. But to hear Negron tell it, so imbued with a sense of righteous principle was he, he just couldn't burden the good people of Florida any longer.

"I have always been a big believer in term limits," he said in a written statement last May. "... I believe in a citizen Legislature where women and men from all walks of life serve for a reasonable period of time and then return to the private sector." What a guy.

Except, now we find opportunity may have knocked a little earlier than Negron admits. GEO Group, the private prisons people, announced on Nov. 29, same month he left the Senate presidency, that they'd hired him as general counsel.



How good a deal was it?

Negron got a two-year contract out of the gate, but it includes options for a “continuous ‘rolling’ two-year term until the age of 67 years,” according to the quarterly report filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.”

Last December when POLITICO reported Negron’s hire, GEO would not discuss terms of the employment agreement. Negron replaced John Bulfin, who had an annual salary of just over \$500,000 and an overall compensation package worth \$2.5 million.

Here's the rub POLITICO's Dixon points out: The Senate president was a big part of framing the current state budget, in which lawmakers sunk a \$4 million increase in funding into companies that operate Florida's private prisons. GEO Group operates five.

Reports Dixon, "Negron also helped secure \$2.9 million in last year’s budget for GEO’s Continuum of Care, the provider’s offender rehabilitation program. The money allowed GEO Group to expand the program to facilities beyond Jackson County’s Graceville Correctional Institution, which had been the only one to offer it.”

It runs deeper than GEO's 2018 quidding for Negron's quoining. GEO was actually pushing the Senate president-to-be two and three years earlier. On Aug. 15, 2016, I wrote (<http://sunshinestatenews.com/story/are-joe-and-rebecca-negron-running-copycat-clinton-foundation>), "GEO, second largest private prison vendor in the country, contributed \$288,000 to the Negrons during this election cycle -- more than a quarter million dollars.”

Of the \$288,000, some \$43,000 went to the (unsuccessful) District 18 congressional campaign of Rebecca Negron on two separate days in 2015 and 2016. On June 22, 2016, presumably to please Negron, GEO lavished another \$50,000 on the super PAC that supported her, Conservative Congress Now!

"The Leopard (read:"lawyer") can NOT change his spots !" (...and he's a very quiet, duplicitous predator...; Now, he can add Florida's taxpayers to his "list of victims".
[reply \(/comment/reply/7269748/86172\)](#)

Submitted by Sister Christian on March 20, 2019 - 9:09pm

[Permalink \(/comment/86297#comment-86297\)](#)

Well this sure helps to explain why the pressure was on to oust Latvala as Budget Chair...

[reply \(/comment/reply/7269748/86297\)](#)

Submitted by Anonymous on March 22, 2019 - 9:20pm

[Permalink \(/comment/86383#comment-86383\)](#)

yep

[reply \(/comment/reply/7269748/86383\)](#)

Submitted by Captain Ron Cole on March 20, 2019 - 11:24am

[Permalink \(/comment/86273#comment-86273\)](#)

Unethical attorneys [and judges?] (97% according to Tampaguy) are the grease for the legal levithan we call our Justice system. All politics is local [bubba networks]. As always - follow the money. As above, so below? Now that attorney client privilege is becoming a thing of the past, the "truth and reconciliation game" will get very interesting.

[reply \(/comment/reply/7269748/86273\)](#)

Submitted by Anonymous on March 19, 2019 - 12:35am

[Permalink \(/comment/86237#comment-86237\)](#)

Query, where is the "Quid pro quo ?" Are you telling me that you can't go to work for anyone you have done business with ? Would you say the same thing if he went to work with Catholic Charities, Florida Rural Legal Services or became the Executive Dir of an Early Learning Coalition for a Particular County, or went to work as College President or took at Job with Shutts & Bowen ? No. So he's making a clip. Congrats to him. Please prove the "Quid Pro Quo" - just don't inference or sensationalize it

[reply \(/comment/reply/7269748/86237\)](#)

Submitted by VoteDem2020 on March 18, 2019 - 2:12pm

[Permalink \(/comment/86223#comment-86223\)](#)

This kind of payola crapola is the legacy of the Rick Scott administration.

[reply \(/comment/reply/7269748/86223\)](#)

Submitted by Anonymous on March 18, 2019 - 1:20pm

[Permalink \(/comment/86219#comment-86219\)](#)

Wow I never thought I would see the day that Nancy wrote a bad story about the Martin County good old boy system. Keep your eyes on Rep Toby Overdorf he will be right behind Joe, Using the system for his own benefit. I have always said go into politics that is where the money is.

[reply \(/comment/reply/7269748/86219\)](#)

Submitted by Joel on March 18, 2019 - 12:18pm

[Permalink \(/comment/86217#comment-86217\)](#)

What a choice we Repubs had for Senate prez in 2017 and 2018. A dirty old man groper who hit on pretty young lobbyists and this son of a gun using public office as his road to riches. Saying they all do it is no reason to let Negron off the hook. When are we going to clean up this process and this town?

[reply \(/comment/reply/7269748/86217\)](#)

Submitted by the truth on March 18, 2019 - 9:46am

[Permalink \(/comment/86213#comment-86213\)](#)

This is typical of most politicians who leave state office. There will be NO integrity in politics, in this state, or any other, until you take the money out of politics. Public Service and cash should not go hand in hand. In this state, and most others, it certainly does. Disgraceful...

[reply \(/comment/reply/7269748/86213\)](#)

Submitted by Anonymous on March 16, 2019 - 12:48pm

[Permalink \(/comment/86184#comment-86184\)](#)

And opposed criminal justice reform because it was bad for his current employer. " Lock them up Joe" hope you sleep well at night

[reply \(/comment/reply/7269748/86184\)](#)

Submitted by [Tampaguy \(/users/tampaguy\)](#) on March 16, 2019 - 11:43am

[Permalink \(/comment/86181#comment-86181\)](#)

Joe Negron - He's one of the LAWYERS that has learned a gob of ways to lie, cheat, steal, and engrandize himself! Never did like him. He's one of the 97% of LAWYERS that give the honest ones a BAD NAME.

[reply \(/comment/reply/7269748/86181\)](#)

Submitted by Rob on March 16, 2019 - 11:36am

[Permalink \(/comment/86179#comment-86179\)](#)

That's ridiculous! And what the heck else are legislators supposed to do when they finish public service? Try and find a job with someone who has never heard of them? This type of attack is why good people don't want to be in politics.

[reply \(/comment/reply/7269748/86179\)](#)

Submitted by H Benson on March 20, 2019 - 9:19pm

[Permalink \(/comment/86299#comment-86299\)](#)

Joe did not need to find another job after leaving public office. He already (1) had a well-paying gig as a partner at one of the largest law firms in the country; and (2) nothing was forcing him to leave the Senate. He abandoned the job for a better-paying job that he helped secure taxpayer dollars with. That's the job he did when he abandoned the job he had.

[reply \(/comment/reply/7269748/86299\)](#)

Submitted by Larry Fried on March 16, 2019 - 11:52am

[Permalink \(/comment/86183#comment-86183\)](#)

Lobbying firm work is not what Negron did. He made sure one companys needs got into the state budget, made sure they got a contract award and then went to work for them for millions of \$ in salary and bennies.

[reply \(/comment/reply/7269748/86183\)](#)

Submitted by Anonymous on March 20, 2019 - 9:14pm

[Permalink \(/comment/86298#comment-86298\)](#)

They are supposed to refrain from voting on or having any influence on a matter from which they stand to benefit financially. That's what they are supposed to do and it's what the integrity of the office demands.

[reply \(/comment/reply/7269748/86298\)](#)

Submitted by Glen Robertson on March 16, 2019 - 11:32am

[Permalink \(/comment/86177#comment-86177\)](#)

You left the Everglades Trust out of this Nancy. Start adding up their gifts to our Joseph and you see why he plunked the reservoir sites on the map exactly where they told him to.

[reply \(/comment/reply/7269748/86177\)](#)

Submitted by C Breeze on March 16, 2019 - 11:11am

[Permalink \(/comment/86174#comment-86174\)](#)

Maybe, 'one day', this particular charlatan will find himself on "the opposite side of the Bar and bars.. (We can only hope that there is "integrity" SOMEWHERE in the "system"....

[reply \(/comment/reply/7269748/86174\)](#)

Submitted by C Breeze on March 16, 2019 - 11:07am

[Permalink \(/comment/86173#comment-86173\)](#)

"Integrity", Honor", and "Reputation": a most difficult achievement for politicians,.. even more so for lawyers involved in politics.... "Temptation" is the 'siren call' to the weak & greedy...

[reply \(/comment/reply/7269748/86173\)](#)

Submitted by C Breeze on March 16, 2019 - 10:58am

[Permalink \(/comment/86172#comment-86172\)](#)

That was an important time for Boca Raton-based GEO Group. At least one of its five contracts, for Moore Haven Correctional Facility, was due to be awarded through open competitive bid processes, through the Florida Department of Management Services, during Negron's presidency.

Guess what company won the bid?

On Aug. 9, 2016, The Miami Herald (<https://miamiherald.typepad.com/nakedpolitics/2016/08/how-the-private-prison-vendor-the-geo-group-invests-big-in-negron-family-fortunes.html>) reported GEO had parsed out \$628,500 to mostly Republican candidates and committees. Which, by the way, included \$150,000 to the Florida Republican Senatorial Committee, the group that coordinated GOP state Senate races -- and that Negron controlled.

Taking contributions from entities with business before the Legislature is one thing. It's how sausage is made in every statehouse in the land. But systematically helping those firms so you can sign on with them later, so you can win a ticket to Millionaire's Row? Unconscionable and criminal and, frankly, disgusting. Not easy to prove, I admit. But in the case of Joe Negron, a powerful president of the Florida Senate, somebody ought to try. For the integrity of the office, if nothing else.

Reach Nancy Smith at nsmith@sunshinestatenews.com (<mailto:nsmith@sunshinestatenews.com>) or at 228-282-2423. Twitter: @NancyLBSmith

Comments

Submitted by Jackie Trancynger on March 21, 2019 - 8:22am

[Permalink \(/comment/86302#comment-86302\)](#)

If Nancy Smith is criticizing Joe, it must be even WORSE than I thought. When many of us in Martin County refused to join in the canonization of Joe Negron as our "river savior" we were severely criticized. I do believe that we have been vindicated , he the usual dishonest politician who used his public office for his own greed and monetary benefits and tried to push his wife on us as well...thank goodness she lost. He wants to privatize prisons she wants to privatize education and destroy our public schools....a real great couple. Now, Nancy Smith revisit your opinion of the Lakepoint Maggy Murchalla lawsuit. You were wrong about Negron, could you be wrong about Lakepoint?

[reply \(/comment/reply/7269748/86302\)](#)

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**Complaint Form**

Title: (U) Allegations of Fraud Against the
Government by The GEO Group, Boca Raton,
Florida

Date: 12/04/2014

Approved By: [REDACTED]

Drafted By: [REDACTED]

Case ID #: 46H-MM-5810760 (U) GEO GROUP;
FRAUD AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT;
OO: MM

Assessment Initiated: 12/04/2014, set to expire 01/03/2015

Complaint Synopsis: (U) Allegations of Fraud Against the Government by
The GEO Group, Boca Raton, Florida

Received On: 11/25/2014

Receipt Method: Email

Incident Type: Criminal Activity

Drafted By: [REDACTED]

Complaint Details:

GEO Corp is a major private prison corporation headquartered and based in Boca Raton, Florida.

On October 9, 2014, WFO SA [REDACTED] received an e-mail from WFO SSA [REDACTED] In his e-mail, SSA [REDACTED] indicated he received a telephone call from FBIHQ SSA [REDACTED] In the telephone call, SSA [REDACTED] indicated he was contacted by [REDACTED] [REDACTED] a self-described 'Whistle blower', alleged that identified BOP personnel received kickbacks in the form of future employment or money to direct inmates to private

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Title: (U) Allegations of Fraud Against the Government by The GEO Group,
Boca Raton, Florida
Re: 46H-MM-5810760, 12/04/2014

prison facilities even though there was available space at federal facilities.

According to [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] alleged the private facilities entered into corrupt agreements with identified individuals at or just below the Warden level.

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SSA [REDACTED] also indicated that [REDACTED]

On October 16, 2014, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] telephone numbers [REDACTED] and

[REDACTED] e-mail address [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was interviewed at the Crystal Gateway Marriott, Alexandria, Virginia. Also present during the interview was Special Agent [REDACTED] Department of Justice Office of Inspector General. After being advised of the identities of the interviewing agents and the nature of the interview, [REDACTED] provided the following information:

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TRANSFERRING OF BUREAU OF PRISONS (BOP) INMATES

In July 2014, [REDACTED] approached [REDACTED] and asked [REDACTED] why the Bureau of Prisons (BOP) was sending prisoners from the Federal facility to a private Residential Re-entry facility 50 miles away. [REDACTED] told [REDACTED] there was an e-mail

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Title: (U) Allegations of Fraud Against the Government by The GEO Group, Boca Raton, Florida

Re: 46H-MM-5810760, 12/04/2014

stating prisoners were being sent 50 miles away to private facilities when there were beds available for the prisoners at the Federal facilities, including FDC Houston.

[redacted] identified [redacted] and [redacted] as individuals who were involved in decisions to move prisoners from Federal detention to the private facilities. [redacted] was identified as [redacted] and [redacted] were identified as [redacted]

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[redacted] indicated [redacted] stated that prisoners would not be going to FDC Houston. According to [redacted] the inmates have available beds at FDC Houston, however, [redacted] and [redacted] decided to send the inmates to the JOE CORLEY facility. The JOE CORLEY facility is a private facility run by THE GEO GROUP. Once an inmate is transferred to JOE CORLEY, THE GEO GROUP charges BOP \$61.20 a night per prisoner.

As of the interview date, [redacted] and [redacted] THE GEO GROUP.

[redacted] recalled a conversation with an unidentified employee [redacted] [redacted] During the conversation, the individual told [redacted] that [redacted] had apparently 'dissed' [redacted] was identified as [redacted]

TRANSFERRING OF [redacted] INMATES

According to [redacted] was engaging in the transfer of inmates similar to the BOP/GEO GROUP issue. However, according to [redacted] this was a local level issue. [redacted] stated that [redacted] was transferring inmates to the JOE CORLEY facility. The inmates should be housed at FDC Houston as FDC Houston is not full and has beds available.

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In addition to the daily \$61.20 a night per prisoner THE GEO GROUP charges, the U.S. Courts are billed by the public defenders who claim reimbursement for a 100 mile round-trip drive to meet with the inmate.

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of entry 03/05/2015

[redacted] telephone number:
[redacted] email: [redacted] was informed of the identity of the interviewing agent and the nature of the interview. Also present during this interview was TFO [redacted] provided the following information:

[redacted] is well aware of GEO Corp's involvement in attempting to privatize the Florida State correctional system. [redacted] would not be surprised if they continue to pursue efforts, though to date, their efforts have largely failed. [redacted] does not know of any inappropriate attempts by GEO to influence legislators, but would not be surprised if such efforts have taken place. It is also possible that GEO has attempted to curry favor completely through campaign donations, both to candidates and political action committees.

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[redacted] will keep his ears open for any information concerning GEO, and will contact captioned agent as needed.

[redacted] is also concerned with potential fraud at the South Florida Health Care District (HCD). [redacted]
[redacted] will contact captioned agent if information about fraudulent billing or expenses by the HCD comes to his attention.

Investigation on 01/19/2015 at [redacted] United States (In Person)

File # 46H-MM-5810760 Date drafted 02/11/2015

by [redacted]

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Title: (U) Allegations of Fraud Against the Government by The GEO Group,
Boca Raton, Florida

Re: 46H-MM-5810760, 12/04/2014

[redacted]
[redacted] described himself and [redacted]
[redacted] i.e. transferring prisoners and THE GEO
GROUP. [redacted]
[redacted] then
sent those e-mails to [redacted] and Senator WARNER'S office.

After [redacted] submitted the issues to Senator WARNER'S office,
[redacted] received a response, i.e. a letter, from the Senator. According
to [redacted] there was a part in the letter that mentioned [redacted] had
stated that [redacted] were now working for THE GEO
GROUP represented a conflict of interest. [redacted]
[redacted] indicated that there
should not be a quid-pro-quo, i.e., beds for a job.

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As of the interview date, [redacted] was not aware of any response
[redacted] may have received [redacted] thought it was interesting
that a few days after [redacted] sent the documents and e-mails [redacted]
regarding the corruption issues, [redacted] received a call from [redacted]
[redacted] asking [redacted]

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[redacted]
[redacted] could care less with what happens with [redacted]
[redacted] would like to be left "the fuck alone".

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Title: (U) Allegations of Fraud Against the Government by The GEO Group,
Boca Raton, Florida
Re: 46H-MM-5810760, 12/04/2014

Approximately one week prior to the interview date, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] has not received a response as of the
interview date.

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According to [REDACTED] and others knew what was going on
with regards to the beds-for-jobs issue.

Final Pre-Assessment Finding:

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Recommended Action: Open New Case

Entities:

GEO Group (Reference, Organization, U.S. Person? No)

Vehicle

Location

City: BOCA RATON

State: FL

Country: United States

[REDACTED] (Reference, Person, U.S. Person? Unknown)

Name/Biographical Information

Name: [REDACTED]

Minor? No

Has Diplomatic Status? No

[REDACTED] (Reference, Person, U.S. Person? Unknown)

Name/Biographical Information

Name: [REDACTED]

Minor? No

Has Diplomatic Status? No

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[REDACTED] (Reference, Person, U.S. Person? Unknown)

Name/Biographical Information

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Title: (U) Allegations of Fraud Against the Government by The GEO Group,
Boca Raton, Florida

Re: 46H-MM-5810760, 12/04/2014

Name: [REDACTED]
Minor? No
Has Diplomatic Status? No

[REDACTED] (Reference, Person, U.S. Person? Unknown)
Name/Biographical Information

Name: [REDACTED]
Minor? No
Has Diplomatic Status? No

[REDACTED] (Reference, Person, U.S. Person? Unknown)
Name/Biographical Information

Name: [REDACTED]
Minor? No
Has Diplomatic Status? No

Communication Account 1

Type: Telephone

Account: [REDACTED]

Communication Account 2

Type: Email

Account: [REDACTED]

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Title: (U) Allegations of Fraud Against the Government by The GEO Group, Boca Raton, Florida

Re: 46H-MM-5810760, 12/04/2014

[redacted] identified [redacted] as [redacted] could not identify who was directing [redacted] prisoners to the JOE CORLEY facility. [redacted] was not sure if [redacted] was involved. However, there are former [redacted] employees who are now employed with THE GEO GROUP.

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OTHER BOP FACILITIES

[redacted] identified another example of transferring prisoners. According to [redacted] BOP prisoners from Puerto Rico were sent to BOP facilities in Miami, Florida. However, because of a BOP contract with the GEO GROUP, these prisoners were then transferred to Atlanta, Georgia. The prisoners were transferred to Atlanta even though Miami was not full and had available beds.

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[redacted] identified FDC Houston, FDC Brooklyn and FDC Atlanta as the Federal facilities where the issues of available beds and the transferring of the prisoners from the FDC to a GEO GROUP facility was prevalent.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS/SENATOR MARK WARNER

[redacted] reported the issues with THE GEO GROUP and transferring of prisoners to [redacted] provided large amount of documents and e-mails to [redacted] told [redacted] that [redacted] brought the documents and e-mails to the OIG'S office.

[redacted] identified [redacted] as [redacted] [redacted] received the documents and e-mails [redacted] submitted to [redacted] must have received the documents from [redacted] [redacted] described a prior interaction with [redacted] that was unrelated to the whistle-blowing issues. [redacted] was upset with [redacted] regarding the [redacted] inability to obtain documents from the BOP on a separate issue.

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[redacted] stated he also informed [redacted] that [redacted] had contacted Senator MARK WARNER'S office [redacted] contacted Senator WARNER'S office to protect [redacted]

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 07/13/2007

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] telephone number [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] (cell), [REDACTED] (office), was telephonically
interviewed. He was advised of the identity of the interviewing
Agent and the nature of the interview. [REDACTED] provided the
following information:

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] are run by a
private company, the Geo Group, based in Florida. [REDACTED]
is [REDACTED] of the Geo Group. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

Investigation on 07/13/07 at Albuquerque, NM (telephonically)File # 194A-AQ-60397-302-2 Date dictated 07/13/07by SA [REDACTED]b6
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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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